

Marshfield Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m. • Thursday, April 3, 2014 • Old School House Common

Members present: Jon Groveman, Michael Schumacher, Faeterri Silver, and Melissa Seifert. Member absent: Bob Light. Also present: Barbara Burkhalter.

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Planning Commission (PC) members reviewed, submitted edits and approved the minutes of meeting dated March 20, 2014.

1. Zoning Administrator's Report

None.

2. Regional Planning Commission Report

None.

3. Emergency Management

The PC needs to find out what part of emergency management is under its purview (per the Regional Planning Commission), as the Town Plan makes specific provisions about flood resiliency plans. Michael has met with the Fire Department, Selectboard and Danny Tatreault, and reported that a lot of good work has been done since the floods. The Fire Departments had meetings with Green Mountain Power (GMP) and the Selectboard and have solved the communications issue with GMP. The PC agreed that it would be good to review the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Faeterri gave some information she received from the RPC: 1. The Fire Department now has a siren to warn village residents of a flash flood (need to confirm), 2. There is a service available (Blackboard Connect) that people can sign up to have a message sent to all subscribers (an automated warning via text or voicemail), 3. The Fire Chief is in charge during emergencies, and 4. Twinfield school is the drop-off point for emergency water, food and blankets (but what if the bridge gets flooded/washed out?). If the Marshfield Dam is breached the water will arrive in the village in 15 minutes on a sunny day (22,400 cubic feet/second and peak within an hour), or immediately on a rainy day (110,000 cubic feet/second and peak within an hour).

The GMP maps are not accurate. There is no plan in place should the dam totally give way.

There are two flood gates in the Marshfield Dam. One is always open and this is how the operators regulate the level of the dam. The culvert by Dick Lashoones cannot handle the amount of water that would come down if the dam were breached. This culvert needs to be enlarged. The water would either flow down Route 2, or more likely through/down the outlet behind Tim Booth's down Folsom Hill.

The PC needs to find out what their role in this is and find out who the lead emergency response people are and work with them. The next step is to review the information from the RPC, find out what the issues are and how to solve them. Request a quote from the RPC to do an independent study on GMP Dam #6 potential flooding; review the materials and create a map/study that shows:

- A. The potential flooding from opening 1 floodgate;
- B. The potential flooding from opening both floodgates; and
- C. If the earthen dam should completely fail (a full breach could happen if there is a delay in opening the gates so that GMP could get someone to do heavy equipment operation on Porter Road or Route 2 because of the strain put on the dam from not opening the gates).

4. Subdivision Process Forms

Melissa drafted a flow chart, which goes hand-in-hand with the user guide that Michael drafted. The next step is to come up with a Subdivision Application Checklist. They drafted checklist points for minimal alterations. Jon will work on the checklist for minor subdivisions and Melissa and Faeterri will work on the checklist for major subdivisions.

Faeterri reported that tax bills are sent directly to the homeowner, whether their mortgage company pays the property tax or not.

The next meeting will be on April 17, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara S. Burkhalter

Final
Approved May 15, 2014